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SOURCE REF:

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: 19 JAN 74

SUBJECT:

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JAPANESE RMATIFICATION OF NPT

DESPITE PRIME MINISTER TANAKA'S RECENT CALL FOR JAPANESE RATIFICATION OF THE NPT DURING THE DIET SESSION WHICH BEGINS ON JANUARY 21, IT APPEARS RATIFICATION MAY SLIP BACK UNTIL AT LEAST AFTER THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS THIS SUMMER. CABINET-LEVEL OMPPOSITION, PRIMARILY FROM TRADE MINISTER NAKASONE AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER MORIYANA, IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELAY. CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR RATIFICATION EXISTS WMITHIN THE RULING PARTY, HOWEVER, AND THE EXACT TIMING WILL EDEPEND ON HOW HARD TANAKA DECIDES TO PUSH FOR EARLIER RATIFICATION.

COORDINATING OFFICERS

Y OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

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